

the documents being both linked documents and linking documents, each of the linked documents being pointed to by a link in one or more of the linking documents;

assigning a score to each of the linked documents based on scores associated with the one or more linking documents; and

processing the linked documents according to the assigned scores.

10. A computer implemented method of scoring a plurality of linked documents, comprising:

receiving a search query from a user;

identifying a plurality of documents responsive to the search query;

locating incoming links to the identified documents from corresponding linking documents;

assigning a score to each of the identified documents based on a number of the incoming links to the identified document and an importance of the incoming links;

creating a ranked list based on the scores of the identified documents; and

presenting to the user information about the identified documents in an order that is based on the ranked list.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the importance of each of the incoming links is based on a quality associated with the corresponding linking document.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein the importance of each of the incoming links is based on whether the corresponding linking document is stored on a same server as the identified document.

13. The method of claim 10, wherein the importance of each of the incoming links is based on a distance between the corresponding linking document and the identified document.

14. The method of claim 10, wherein the importance of each of the incoming links is based on an author of the corresponding linking document.

15. The method of claim 10, wherein the importance of each of the incoming links is based on an importance of a location of the corresponding linking document.

16. The method of claim 10, wherein the importance of each of the incoming links is based on a location of the incoming link within the corresponding linking document.

17. The method of claim 10, wherein the importance of each of the incoming links is based on a visibility of the incoming link within the corresponding linking document.

18. The method of claim 10, wherein the importance of each of the incoming links is based on when the corresponding linking document was last modified.

19. The method of claim 10, wherein the importance of each of the incoming links is based on a relationship between the incoming link and a bookmark or home page of the user.

20. The method of claim 10, wherein the presenting to the user information about the identified documents includes:

annotating links in the identified documents based on an importance of documents referenced by the links.

21. A computer implemented method of organizing a plurality of linked nodes, comprising:

determining first link information for a linked node;

determining second link information for linking nodes that link to the linked node;

and

calculating a score for the linked node based on both the first link information and the second link information.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the first link information comprises backlink information.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the backlink information comprises a number of backlinks associated with the linked node.

24. The method of claim 22, wherein the backlink information comprises a quality of backlinks associated with the linked node.

25. The method of claim 21, wherein the second link information comprises backlink information.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein the backlink information comprises a number of backlinks associated with the linking nodes.

27. The method of claim 25, wherein the backlink information comprises a quality of backlinks associated with the linking nodes.

28. A computer implemented method of organizing a plurality of linked documents, comprising:

- (a) identifying a first linked document;
- (b) identifying links between linking documents and the first linked document;
- (c) assigning a weight to each of the identified links;

(d) determining a score for the first linked document based on (i) a number of the identified links between the linking documents and the first linked document, and (ii) the weights assigned to each of the identified links;

(e) repeating steps (a) – (d) for a second linked document; and

(f) organizing the first and second linked documents based on the determined scores.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein the assigning a weight comprises:  
assigning different weights to at least some of the identified links associated with the linked documents.

30. The method of claim 28, wherein the weight is dependent on at least one of a host, URL, domain, author, institution, and last update time of the linking documents.

31. The method of claim 28, wherein the weight is dependent on whether the linking documents are selected documents or roots.

32. The method of claim 28, wherein the weight is dependent on an importance, visibility, or textual emphasis of the identified links in the linking documents.

33. The method of claim 28, wherein the weight is dependent on a particular user's preferences, a rate at which users access the linking documents, or an importance of the linking documents.

34. A computer implemented method of organizing a plurality of documents, comprising:

identifying a plurality of linked documents;

identifying primary linking documents that link to the linked documents;

identifying secondary linking documents that link to the primary linking documents;

assigning a score to each of the linked documents based on (i) the number of links between the primary linking documents and the linked document and (ii) the number of links between the primary linking documents and the secondary linking documents; and organizing the linked documents according to the assigned scores.

35. A computer implemented method of scoring a plurality of documents, comprising:

identifying a plurality of linked documents;

identifying linking documents that link to the linked documents;

determining a score for each of the linked documents based on scores of the linking documents that link to the linked document; and

processing the linked documents according to the determined scores.

36. A computer implemented method of organizing a plurality of linked documents, comprising:

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enclosed
- (a) identifying a first linked document;
  - (b) identifying links between linking documents and the first linked document;
  - (c) assigning a weight to each of the identified links;
  - (d) determining a score for the first linked document based on (i) a number of the identified links between the linking documents and the first linked document, and (ii) the weights assigned to each of the identified links;
  - (e) repeating steps (a) – (d) for subsequent linked documents; and
  - (f) organizing the first and subsequent linked documents based on the determined scores.--.

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please add Figure 3 (enclosed). The figure is a flowchart of claim 1 as originally filed in the application so no new matter has been added by this drawing or the above description thereof.

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment provides amendments to the specification similar to those made in the parent application and adds new Figure 3 as was added to the parent application. The Preliminary Amendment also cancels pending claims 1-8 and adds new

claims 9-36. Claims 9-36 are now pending in this application. Favorable examination and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully solicited.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees due by this Preliminary Amendment and credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 50-1070.

Respectfully submitted,

Harrity & Snyder, L.L.P.

By: 

Paul A. Harrity  
Reg. No. 39,574

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Attachment: Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

11240 Waples Mill Road  
Suite 300  
Fairfax, Virginia 22030  
(571) 432-0800